

**REMARKS**

The Office Action dated February 1, 2010 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-11, 13-23, 25, 27-39, and 41 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-11, 13-23, 25, 27-39, and 41 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claims 1-11, 13-23, 25, 27-39, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over “Networked VR System: Kitchen Layout Design for Customers” by Fukuda et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Fukuda”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,970,472 to Allsop et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Allsop”), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,055,516 to Johnson et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Johnson”) is respectfully traversed.

Fukuda describes a networked virtual reality kitchen design system that allows customers to create a preliminary kitchen design on the Internet and to edit the preliminary design in three-dimensional space. After reviewing and editing the preliminary design on the Internet, customers are able to send the preliminary design to a showroom and to schedule a final review of the preliminary design with a design specialist in the showroom. During the final review session, customers are required to discuss detailed planning issues and budgeting issues with the design specialist in person. Notably, Fukuda does not describe or suggest providing performance information electronically on available new building options, analyzing specification and performance information for each of the available new building options, and providing performance information electronically on at least one unavailable new building option to a user.

Allsop describes a method for performing electronic commerce on the Internet. The method includes establishing a Web Linked Dealer (WLD) that facilitates authorized sales of a given manufacturer’s products. The WLD has an online shopping website that is accessible from a manufacturer’s website. To operate the WLD, a server (50) is maintained with an Internet connection, and a number of order processing units (44-49) for processing product

orders are maintained and operated on server (50). Each order processing unit (44-49) provides an electronic commerce interface by which a user can, through the WLD, purchase the manufacturer's products. Each order processing unit (44-49) includes a shopping basket application (51) that displays current contents of a user's shopping basket. A shopping basket maintenance module (62) allows the user to edit the contents of the shopping basket. Notably, Allsop also does not describe or suggest providing performance information electronically on available new building options, analyzing specification and performance information for each of the available new building options, and providing performance information electronically on at least one unavailable new building option to a user.

Johnson describes searching multiple catalogs from different suppliers. Catalog database (36) can contain a catalog or catalogs published by a vendor distributor, having the distributors' catalog numbers for all listed products and the vendor manufacturers' part numbers for many of the listed products. Catalog database (36) can further contain catalogs published by some of the vendor manufacturers, listing the manufacturers' part numbers for certain products correspondingly listed in the distributors catalogs and for certain products not listed in the distributors catalogs. Catalog database (36) can further contain catalogs published by outside suppliers, whether other manufacturers or other distributors, listing such vendors' products different from those in the distributors catalogs. Notably, Johnson does not describe or suggest providing performance information electronically on available new building options, analyzing specification and performance information for each of the available new building options, and providing performance information electronically on at least one unavailable new building option to a user.

Claim 1 recites a method of managing building options. The method includes "obtaining from a first user a selection of a plurality of available new building options for constructing a new building; obtaining from the first user an indication of at least one unavailable new building option for constructing the new building, the at least one unavailable new building option not being offered as a selection choice for a new building option for constructing the new building, the at least one unavailable new building option

comprising at least one building component; causing the plurality of available new building options to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user; providing information electronically on the plurality of available new building options to the second user, the provided information comprising specification and performance information for each of the plurality of available new building options; analyzing the specification and performance information for each of the plurality of available new building options; based on analyzing the specification and performance information for each of the plurality of available new building options, recommending a type of building component corresponding to the at least one unavailable new building option, and providing performance information electronically on the recommended type of building component corresponding to the at least one unavailable new building option to the second user; obtaining electronically from the second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option; displaying electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget; and providing the indication of the at least one choice to the first user.”

No combination of Fukuda, Allsop, and Johnson describes or suggests a method of managing building options as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, no combination of Fukuda, Allsop, and Johnson describes or suggests providing performance information electronically on available new building options, analyzing specification and performance information for each of the available new building options, and providing performance information electronically on at least one unavailable new building option to a user. In contrast, Fukuda describes merely providing a customer with product information on available products, Allsop describes a Web Linked Dealer that allows a user to maintain and edit the contents of an online shopping basket, and Johnson describes merely accessing an outside database for purchase information regarding a product not listed in their database.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is submitted as being patentable over Fukuda in view of Allsop, and further in view of Johnson.

Claims 2-11, 13, and 14 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-11, 13, and 14 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2-11, 13, and 14 are likewise patentable over Fukuda in view of Allsop, and further in view of Johnson.

Claim 15 recites a system for managing building options. The system includes "a first processor adapted to obtain from a first user a selection of a plurality of available new building options and to obtain from the first user an indication of at least one unavailable new building option, the at least one unavailable new building option not being offered as a selection choice for a new building option; and a second processor adapted to allow performance information on the plurality of available new building options and the at least one unavailable new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user, said second processor adapted to provide a recommended type of building component corresponding to the at least one unavailable new building option based on analyzing specification information and performance information for each of the plurality of available new building options to the second user, said second processor adapted to obtain electronically from said second user an indication of at least one choice from among the plurality of available new building options, said second processor adapted to display electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget, and said second processor adapted to provide the at least one choice to said first user."

No combination of Fukuda, Allsop, and Johnson describes or suggests a system for managing building options as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, no combination of Fukuda, Allsop, and Johnson describes or suggests a system for managing building options that includes a first processor adapted to obtain from a first user a selection of a plurality of available new building options and to obtain from the first user an indication of at least one unavailable new building option, and a second processor adapted to allow performance information on the plurality of available new building options and the unavailable new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user and adapted to provide a

recommended type of building component corresponding to the unavailable new building option based on analyzing specification and performance information for each of the plurality of available new building options. In contrast, Fukuda describes merely providing a customer with product information on available products, Allsop describes a Web Linked Dealer that allows a user to maintain and edit the contents of an online shopping basket, and Johnson describes merely accessing an outside database for purchase information regarding a product not listed in their database.

Accordingly, Claim 15 is submitted as being patentable over Fukuda in view of Allsop, and further in view of Johnson.

Claims 16-23 and 25 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 15. When the recitations of Claims 16-23 and 25 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 16-23 and 25 are likewise patentable over Fukuda in view of Allsop, and further in view of Johnson.

Claim 27 recites at least one program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of managing building options. The method includes “obtaining from a first user a selection of a plurality of available new building options for constructing a new building; obtaining from the first user an indication of at least one unavailable new building option for constructing the new building, the at least one unavailable new building option not being offered as a selection choice for a new building option for constructing the new building, the at least one unavailable new building option comprising at least one building component; causing the plurality of available new building options to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user; providing information electronically on the plurality of available new building options to the second user, the provided information comprising specification and performance information for each of the plurality of available new building options; analyzing the specification and performance information for each of the plurality of available new building options; based on analyzing the specification and performance information for each of the plurality of available

new building options, recommending a type of building component corresponding to the at least one unavailable new building option, and providing performance information electronically on the recommended type of building component corresponding to the at least one unavailable new building option to the second user; obtaining electronically from the second user an indication of at least one choice from among the plurality of available new building options; displaying electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget; and providing the indication of the at least one choice to the first user.”

No combination of Fukuda, Allsop, and Johnson describes or suggests a method of managing building options as recited in Claim 27. More specifically, no combination of Fukuda, Allsop, and Johnson describes or suggests a method of managing building options that includes providing performance information electronically on a plurality of available new building options, analyzing specification and performance information for each of the plurality of available new building options, and providing performance information electronically on at least one unavailable new building option to a user. In contrast, Fukuda describes merely providing a customer with product information on available products, Allsop describes a Web Linked Dealer that allows a user to maintain and edit the contents of an online shopping basket, and Johnson describes merely accessing an outside database for purchase information regarding a product not listed in their database.

Accordingly, Claim 27 is submitted as being patentable over Fukuda in view of Allsop, and further in view of Johnson.

Claims 28-39 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 27. When the recitations of Claims 28-39 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 27, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 28-39 are likewise patentable over Fukuda in view of Allsop, and further in view of Johnson.

Claim 41 recites a system for managing building options. The system includes “means for obtaining from a first user a selection of a plurality of available new building

options for constructing a new building; means for obtaining from the first user an indication of at least one unavailable new building option for constructing the new building, the at least one unavailable new building option not being offered as a selection choice for a new building option for constructing the new building, the at least one unavailable new building option comprising at least one building component; means for causing the plurality of available new building options to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user; means for providing information electronically on the plurality of available new building options to the second user, the provided information comprising specification and performance information for each of the plurality of available new building options; means for analyzing the specification and performance information for each of the plurality of available new building options; means for recommending a type of building component corresponding to the at least one unavailable new building option based on analyzing the specification and performance information for each of the plurality of available new building options, and providing performance information electronically on the recommended type of building component corresponding to the at least one unavailable new building option to the second user; means for obtaining electronically from said second user an indication of at least one choice from among the plurality of available new building options; means for displaying electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget; and means for providing the indication of the at least one choice to said first user.”

No combination of Fukuda, Allsop, and Johnson describes or suggests a system for managing building options as recited in Claim 41. More specifically, no combination of Fukuda, Allsop, and Johnson describes or suggests a system for managing building options including a means for providing specification and performance information electronically on each of the plurality of available new building options, a means for analyzing the specification and performance information for each of the plurality of available new building options, and a means for providing performance information electronically on a recommended type of building component corresponding to at least one unavailable new

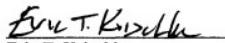
building option to a user. In contrast, Fukuda describes merely providing a customer with product information on available products, Allsop describes a Web Linked Dealer that allows a user to maintain and edit the contents of an online shopping basket, and Johnson describes merely accessing an outside database for purchase information regarding a product not listed in their database.

Accordingly, Claim 41 is submitted as being patentable over Fukuda in view of Allsop, and further in view of Johnson.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-11, 13-23, 25, 27-39, and 41 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all of the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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